

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A method of manufacturing cookware comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a bonded composite sheet of material having at least one layer of an aluminum, aluminum alloy or Alclad aluminum material bonded between layers of stainless steel;

(b) forming a cookware vessel of a desired configuration having said aluminum, aluminum alloy or Alclad aluminum exposed at least at an edge portion of said formed cookware vessel; and

(c) treating at least said exposed edge of aluminum, aluminum alloy or Alclad aluminum by a micro arc oxidation process to form an Al_2O_3 coating on at least said exposed edge of aluminum, aluminum alloy or Alclad aluminum whereby chemical corrosion/erosion of said exposed edge by caustic cleaning agents is prevented.

2. (Currently Amended) Cookware made according to the method of claim 1, comprising:

a bonded composite sheet of material having at least one layer of an aluminum, aluminum alloy or Alclad aluminum material bonded between layers of stainless steel, formed in the shape of a cookware vessel of a desired configuration having said aluminum, aluminum alloy or Alclad aluminum extending to at least at an edge portion around an outer perimeter of said cookware vessel, wherein said edge of aluminum, aluminum alloy or Alclad aluminum is covered by an Al_2O_3 coating applied by micro arc oxidation, whereby chemical corrosion/erosion of said edge by caustic cleaning agents is prevented.

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116

Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 3726

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3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the bonded composite sheet of material includes at least two layers of aluminum, aluminum alloy or Alclad aluminum bonded respectively between layers of stainless steel.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the method includes the step of masking the stainless steel prior to said treating step.

5. (Canceled)